

BLANDFORD RURAL DISTRICT

Medical Officer's Report for the year 1940

To the Chairman and Members of the Blandford Rural District Council

The Minister of Health has directed that sanitary reports for the year 1940 shall as for 1939, be abbreviated and confined to essential and urgent matters, especially those arising from the war and exceptional administrative measures. Statistics are to be preserved but not included in this interim report.

The population of the District was throughout the year swollen by evacuees, both private and Government aided, by the families of soldiers and by troops themselves.

In some places a certain amount of overcrowding was unavoidable and had to be condoned.

The sanitary arrangements of the villages though no doubt strained do not appear to have broken down.

291 cases of measles were notified during the year and 75 cases of scarlet fever, the latter mainly in the boarding schools. There was no other unusual prevalence of epidemic or other diseases.

The Council's schemes for improvement in housing perforce remained in abeyance. Cessation of all new building and some deterioration of existing houses have been unavoidable.

During the year the Council carried through a successful campaign of immunisation against diphtheria. I have made a previous report on this. I estimate that 71 per cent of the school children were immunised and 48 per cent of the children aged from one to five. A charge of 1/- per child was made to parents and this seemed to have no deterrent effect.

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